(c) what are the advantages and disadvantages of our country's joining the Paris convention?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No such record is maintained by the Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The proponents for the Paris Convention argue that it will enhance the confidence of the foreign investor and create a favourable climate for the flow of technology to the host country. They also point out that the Convention provides sufficient flexibility to the host country to follow its national objectives and priorities in its own industrial property laws.

The main arguments advanced against the Convention are that it is weighted heavily in favour of protecting the patent holders of the developed market economy countries, that it will lead to monopolistic importation of patented articles, and that will impede the self-reliant technological and industrial development of the host developing countries.

Rise in the prices of technical grade pesticides

1967. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that the shortage of technical grade pesticides had led to sharp increase in its prices;

(b) if so, the manner in which Government propose to contain the prices and ensure availability of pesticides to farmers at a reasonable price; and

(c) whether Government propose to import technical grade pesticides for distributing to users at subsidised prices to avert acute shortage and steep rise in its prices?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Some shortage have been reported mainly on account of very good monsoons and tremendous increase in demand, but there have been no significant price rise.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Some pesticides have been imported to meet the gap in demand and supply, but there is no proposal for direct subsidy. However, Ministry of Agriculture do give subsidies for farmers in their usual programmes of increasing agriculture production.

Seminar on patent law sponsored by FICCI|WIPO|ICC

1968. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a jointly sponsored seminar is being held by FICCI/WIPO/ICC on patent law in November, 1988;

(b) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has given approval for holding such a seminar;

(c) what are the main objectives of this seminar; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government will take a decision to join the Paris Convention after receiving recommendations of this Seminar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) The federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, is organising a Seminar on Licensing and other Technology Transfer Arrangements, in cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and the Indian National Committee of International Chamber of Commerce from 24—26 November, 1988, in New Delhi. The objective of the Seminar is to discuss various forms of technology